

World View

International Union seeks talks

GDANSK, Poland (AP) — Solidarity on Sunday welcomed the government's offer to negotiate legalizing the outlawed trade union and said talks should begin as soon as possible to combat Poland's chronic economic and social ills.

A Solidarity statement, released after a nearly two-day meeting, clears the way for the first formal talks between Solidarity and authorities since a December 1981 military crackdown crushed the organization.

But Solidarity leader Lech Walesa cautioned, "I wish that there be no euphoria. Anything is still possible."

"Is it true we will be solving Polish problems in a pluralistic free way? We will see very soon," he told about 5,000 people after Mass at St. Brygida's church in Gdansk.

Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski on Sunday said he "could imagine" Solidarity one day becoming an opposition party but said the organization would have to renounce its status as a trade union to do so.

"The question is, what does Solidarity want to become," Rakowski said in an interview with the West German ZDF television network. "Does it want to become an opposition political party or a trade union. I would like to know."

He did not specify what scope or rights such an opposition party could have.

Solidarity's National Executive Commission said it is willing to meet the government's condition that it respect Polish law and observe the statute that made Solidarity the East bloc's first and only legal, independent union in 1980.

Czech vigil busted

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Police arrested up to 500 people who tried to attend a vigil at the grave of a student who burned himself to death to protest the 1968 Soviet-led invasion, activists said Sunday.

The protesters were arrested in the village of Vsetaty, 18 miles from Prague and the hometown of Jan Palach, who killed himself in Wenceslas Square in January 1969.

Activist Petr Uhl said between 400 and 500 people who tried to hold a vigil at the heavily guarded cemetery where Palach is buried were arrested on Saturday. Police had blocked roads and interrogated visitors on Saturday.

The arrests bring to 800 the number of people held during a week of anti-government protests, the biggest wave of unrest in the Czechoslovakia in 20 years.

A heavy police presence in Prague and Vsetaty, threats of prosecution and the hundreds of arrests appeared to have stilled the protests by Sunday.

Uhl, a member of the Charter 77 activist group, said police detained people Saturday who could not prove they were Vsetaty residents. He said most were taken to a nearby state farm, questioned, photographed and released.

Uhl said two activists, Ludvik Marks of the independent youth group Czech Children and Martin Litomirsky of the

Democratic Initiative, apparently had been detained overnight.

Uhl also reported that Havel's lawyer had seen the jailed activist on Friday. He said the activists could face charges with penalties of up to three years in jail.

National Bundy nears end

STARKE, Fla. (AP) — Serial killer Ted Bundy's tearful eleventh-hour confessions failed Sunday to bring a delay of his impending execution, but he scheduled more talks with investigators from four Western states.

Bundy provided investigators on Friday and Saturday with details of at least nine murders for which he has long been suspected but never charged. By Sunday, however, he became erratic in his promises as he met with attorneys, a friend and paralegals.

The 42-year-old law school dropout, who is scheduled to die at 7 a.m. Tuesday, met Sunday with investigators from Idaho, broke but rescheduled an appointment with a Utah detective, and canceled a Monday afternoon news conference with 30 journalists, state officials said.

"He's got visits scheduled with investigators from Colorado, Utah and Washington, some of them tonight and some maybe tomorrow, although we don't know about tomorrow," L.E. Turner, assistant superintendent at Florida State Prison, said late Sunday. "He may not have time for all of them."

Bundy, who has been on death row at the prison since July 1979, lost an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court a week ago, and no other court he has turned to since has offered a reprieve.

Bundy's next step could be an appeal to Anthony Kennedy, the Supreme Court justice assigned to consider last-minute Florida death appeals. One justice may stay an execution pending review by the full court, but Kennedy favors the death penalty.

Futures not fazed

CHICAGO (AP) — An FBI fraud investigation at the nation's two largest futures exchanges will have little effect on traders when the markets open for their first week since the probe became public, one veteran trader said Sunday.

But a former trader said the investigation at the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange could help smaller traders gain equal footing with their high-rolling counterparts in the trading pits.

"This is just another week in the history of the exchanges," said Conrad Leslie, a long-time commodity trader at the Board of Trade. "There was business as usual on Friday and this week should be no different."

"The public is going to pause and reflect about this, but commerce is not going to stop and that's the heartbeat of the marketplace. It's not that bad. The publicity is a bigger problem than the actual activities."

But a former options trader at the Board of Trade, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said questionable behavior by traders was no secret.

"There were a lot of traders that knew there was an inside (group)," he said. "We weren't on the inside and we would have been glad for a bust like this because it's a fixed deal."

"Certainly for the traders who are trying to earn an honest buck, especially for the small traders, it's unfair. You don't have a fair shot," the former trader said. "Therefore it leaves you with a distaste."

Commodities exchanges are hotbeds of capitalism in which speculators essentially bet millions of dollars on the future prices of goods ranging from gold to Treasury bills to frozen orange juice.

Regional

Dioxin discovered

HALSEY (AP) — Walt Sinclair, manager of the Pope & Talbot Co. pulp plant in Halsey, says minute traces of dioxin have been found in waste water, sludge and pulp from the mill.

The preliminary findings are based on samples taken in June and do not indicate what the exact levels are, Sinclair said last week. More detailed results are expected when a national study is released in April, he said.

Dioxin is a toxic compound and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed guidelines on the maximum amounts of dioxin residues allowed in mill waste and paper products.

Samples taken at Halsey are part of a nationwide study of more than 100 pulp mills that use a chemical bleaching process.

Pope & Talbot is in the process of planning for a \$300 million, two-year expansion of the pulp mill. Sinclair said the company will study ways of reducing or eliminating dioxin residues as part of the project.

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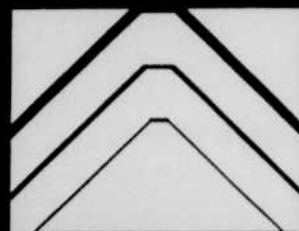
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